

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A selectively detachable measuring and recording module for use with a
2 hand tool comprising:

3 a module housing configured to be assembled to the hand tool;

4 a measuring device coupled to said module housing; and

5 a sound recording and playback device disposed within said module
6 housing.

1 2. The module of claim 1 wherein said module housing includes coupling
2 means for securely attaching and quickly detaching from said module from the
3 hand tool.

1 3. The module of claim 2 wherein said coupling means comprises a pair of
2 sliding tracks.

1 4. The module of claim 3 wherein the hand tool includes a tool housing
2 having a receiving portion configured to matingly receive said pair of sliding
3 tracks.

1 5. The module of claim 4 wherein said receiving portion includes a pair of
2 longitudinal recesses, each configured to matingly slidably receive one of said
3 pair of sliding tracks.

1 6. The module of claim 1 wherein a rear surface of said module housing is
2 coextensive with a rear portion of the hand tool.

1 7. The module of claim 1 wherein said module housing further comprises a
2 gripping surface.

1 8. The module of claim 7 wherein the gripping surface includes a plurality of
2 scores disposed at a rear end portion of said module housing.

1 9. The module of claim 1 wherein said module housing includes a top surface
2 that is generally coextensive with a top surface of the hand tool.

1 10. The module of claim 1 wherein said module housing is configured to have
2 predetermined dimensions that generally correspond to a receiving portion
3 disposed on the hand tool.

1 11. The module of claim 1 wherein said module housing comprises ABS.

1 12. The module of claim 1 further comprising an LED display disposed on said
2 module housing.

1 13. The module of claim 1 further comprising a multiple position switch
2 disposed on said module housing for controlling recording and playback modes of
3 said module.

1 14. The module of claim 13 wherein said multiple position switch has at least a
2 recording position and a playback position.

1 15. The module of claim 1 further comprising an actuator disposed on said
2 module housing for activating either a recording mode or a playback mode.

1 16. The module of claim 1 wherein said measuring device is selectively
2 detachable from said module housing.

1 17. The module of claim 1 wherein said measuring device is unitary with said
2 module housing.

1 18. The module of claim 1 further comprising marking means disposed on said
2 module housing.

1 19. The module of claim 18 wherein said marking means comprises a writing
2 utensil.

1 20. The module of claim 18 wherein said marking means comprises a metal
2 point.

1 21. The module of claim 1 wherein said measuring device comprises a tape
2 measure that includes a spool housing and a measuring tape.

1 22. The module of claim 21 wherein said spool housing is configured and
2 arranged so that a top surface is generally coextensive with a top surface of said
3 module housing.

1 23. The module of claim 1 further comprising measurement indicia disposed on
2 said module housing.

1 24. The module of claim 1 wherein said module is configured to have a
2 predetermined length that corresponds to an integer unit measurement.

1 25. The module of claim 1 wherein said sound recording device is powered by
2 a modular power source disposed within said module housing.

1 26. The module of claim 25 wherein said modular power source is a battery.

1 27. The module of claim 1 wherein said sound recording device is powered by
2 an internal power source within the power tool

1 28. A selectively detachable recording module for use with a hand tool
2 comprising:

3 a module housing configured to be assembled to the hand tool; and
4 a sound recording device disposed within said module housing.

1 29. The module of claim 28 further comprising a multiple position switch
2 disposed on said module housing for controlling recording and playback modes of
3 said module.

1 30. The module of claim 29 wherein said multiple position switch has at least a
2 recording position and a playback position.

1 31. The module of claim 28 further comprising an actuator disposed on said
2 module housing for activating either a recording mode or a playback mode.

1 32. The module of claim 28 wherein said module housing includes a top
2 surface that is generally coextensive with a top surface of the hand tool.

1 33. The module of claim 28 wherein said module housing includes coupling
2 means for securely attaching and quickly detaching from said module from the
3 hand tool.

1 34. The module of claim 33 wherein said coupling means comprises a pair of
2 sliding tracks.

1 35. A method of using a hand tool wherein the user is able to take and record
2 measurements, as well as play back recorded measurements, including:

3 coupling a predetermined hand tool to a recording and measuring module;
4 taking measurements of a predetermined work surface with the recording
5 and measuring module;

6 making a voice recording of the measurements with the recording and
7 measuring module;

8 playing back the voice recording while using the hand tool on the
9 predetermined work surface.

1 36. A combination measuring and recording module and hand tool having
2 unitary construction comprising:

3 a generally cylindrical housing having an output shaft at a first end;
4 a measuring device disposed within said housing at a second end; and
5 a sound recording and playback device disposed within said housing at said
6 second end.

1 37. The combination of claim 36 further comprising a multiple position switch
2 disposed on said housing for controlling recording and playback modes of said
3 sound recording and playback device.

1 38. The combination of claim 36 wherein said multiple position switch has at
2 least a recording position and a playback position.

1 39. The combination of claim 36 further comprising an actuator disposed on
2 said housing for activating either a recording mode or a playback mode.

1 40. The combination of claim 36 wherein said measuring device is selectively
2 detachable from said housing.

1 41. The combination of claim 36 wherein said measuring device is unitary with
2 said housing.

1 42. The combination of claim 36 further comprising marking means disposed
2 on said housing.

1 43. The combination of claim 42 wherein said marking means comprises a
2 writing utensil.

1 44. The combination of claim 42 wherein said marking means comprises a
2 sharpened point.

1 45. The combination of claim 36 wherein said measuring device comprises a
2 tape measure that includes a spool housing and a measuring tape.

1 46. The combination of claim 45 wherein said spool housing is configured and
2 arranged so that a top surface is generally coextensive with a top surface of said
3 housing.

1 47. The combination of claim 36 further comprising measurement indicia
2 disposed on said housing.

1 48. The combination of claim 36 wherein said housing is configured to have a
2 predetermined length that corresponds to an integer unit measurement.

1 49. The combination of claim 36 wherein said sound recording device is
2 powered by a modular power source disposed within said housing.

1 50. The combination of claim 49 wherein said modular power source is a
2 battery.

1 51. The combination of claim 36 wherein said sound recording device is
2 powered by an internal power source within the power tool

1 52. A selectively detachable recording module for use with a hand tool having
2 a generally cylindrical housing and a handle portion that is generally perpendicular
3 to the housing comprising:

4 a module housing configured to be assembled to the hand tool at a top
5 portion of the housing; and
6 a measuring device disposed within said module housing.